

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 04148 162200Z

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6462

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4148

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNGA IAEA UN AU UNIDO

SUBJ: VIENNA AS THIRD UN CITY

REF: (A) VIENNA 8504; (B) USUN 3383

1. IN MY TELEGRAM OF SEPT 24 (REF B), I EXPRESSED MY SYMPATHY WITH AMB HUMES' EFFORTS TO BRING AUSTRIANS AROUND ON TAX POLICY. IN SO DOING I MADE KNOWN MY INABILITY TO RECOMMEND SUPPORT FOR AUSTRIAN CAMPAIGN TO ATTRACT UN UNITS AWAY FROM NEW YORK. I REGRET THAT, AFTER REVIEWING VIENNA'S RENEWED ARGUMENTATION, I MUST REITERATE MY STRONG VIEW THAT AUSTRIAN DESIRE TO MAKE VIENNA A THIRD UN CITY RUNS COUNTER TO BEST INTERESTS OF UNITED STATES AND UNITED NATIONS.

2. PRINCIPAL BENEFIT TO AUSTRIA OF DESIGNATION AS UN CITY WOULD BE THAT GOVT OF AUSTRIA WOULD NO LONGER BE OBLIGED TO MAKE UP FOR ADDITIONAL COST OF HOLDING MEETINGS IN VIENNA INSTEAD OF GENEVA OR NEW YORK. AS 25 PERCENT OR MORE OF EXTRA COSTS TO UN WOULD ULTIMATELY BE MET BY AMERICAN TAXPAYER, I AM STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THIS CHANGE.

3. IN ANY CASE, THIRD WORLD HAS CLEARLY SIGNED THAT IT IS OPPOSED TO LOCATION OF ANY NEW UN HEADQUARTERS IN
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PAGE 02 USUN N 04148 162200Z

MAJOR NORTHERN HEMISPHERE CAPITALS. TREND IN UN WAS

EXEMPLIFIED BY DECISION TO LOCATE UN COUNCIL ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT IN NAIROBI DESPITE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS.

4. IT IS TRUE THAT US AND AUSTRIA HAVE SHARED VALUES WHICH SOMETIMES PUT OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN SAME CAMP IN UN FORUMS. USUN VALUES ITS GOOD RELATIONS WITH AUSTRIAN MISSION TO UN. HOWEVER, AUSTRIANS HAVE TOO FREQUENTLY LINED UP AGAINST US FOR ME TO RECOMMEND THAT WE TRY TO ENHANCE THEIR PRESTIGE AT EXPENSE OF UN BUDGET AND US TAXPAYER. AUSTRIAN ATTACHMENT TO TRADITIONAL WESTERN LEGAL AND ECONOMIC VALUES IS NOW BEING INCREASINGLY OFFSET IN UN FRAMEWORK BY INSISTENT AUSTRIAN DESIRE TO "PLAY A ROLE" IN SOLVING IMPORTANT PROBLEMS. THIS ATTITUDE HAS MADE AUSTRIANS SUSCEPTIBLE TO THIRD WORLD PRESSURES TO GO ALONG WITH THE HERD ON ALL MANNER OF ISSUES. WE SUSPECT THIS TREND WOULD ACCELERATE IN UNLIKELY EVENT VIENNA BECOMES THIRD UN CITY. FURTHER, UN CITY ISSUE IS SECOND RECENT INSTANCE IN WHICH AUSTRIA HAS SOUGHT TO ADVANCE ITS OWN POLITICAL INTERESTS AT EXPENSE OF UN COMMUNITY. DEPT WILL RECALL THAT, TOGETHER WITH TWO GERMANIES, AUSTRIA IS PLUMPING FOR GERMAN AS A WORKING LANGUAGE AT THE UN. THIS IS ANOTHER INITIATIVE FOR WHICH AUSTRIAN MOTIVES MAY BE UNDERSTANDABLE. EVEN SO, IT SERVES REGIONAL INTEREST AT THREATENED COST OF ADDING NEW COST AND FURTHER INEFFICIENCY INTO UN OPERATIONS.

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